

Congressional Record

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. I want to personally thank Mr. ROGERS and his staff for helping with regard to this amendment with regard to radicalization, and I also want to thank Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Also, as somebody who has served here for a number of years, I want to say that I don't think there have been two finer chairmen and ranking members of the Intelligence Committee since I've been here. I think it's very impressive to see that, and I just want everyone up here, particularly in the country, to know that.

Very briefly, Madam Chair, this amendment deals with radicalization. I won't go into the whole statement, but I will just read several examples of radicalization that have taken place in northern Virginia.

In October 2010, Farooque Ahmed from Ashburn, in my congressional district of Vienna, was arrested for allegedly plotting attacks on the Washington Metro system, targeting Metro stations to find optimal times to kill as many innocent people as possible.

In July 2010, Zachary Chesser, a graduate of nearby Oakton High School, which is very close to where I live, was arrested in New York en route to join al Shabaab in Somalia. Late last year, Chesser pled guilty to charges of providing material support to terrorists, communicating threats and soliciting crimes of violence, and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In November 2009, five American teenagers from Fairfax County, Virginia, were arrested in Pakistan, attempting to join militant Islamist organizations. They have been sentenced to 10 years in a Pakistan prison.

In November 2009, Virginia native

Army Major Nidal Hassan attacked Fort Hood in Texas and was charged with the shooting deaths of 13 service men and women and civilians. Hassan was a graduate of Virginia Tech and grew up in Arlington County and Roanoke, Virginia.

In 2004, Abdul Rahman al-Amoudi from Falls Church, Virginia, was convicted on three charges of terrorist financing and conspiring to assassinate Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and was sentenced to 23 years in jail.

In 2003, Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, a northern Virginia resident and the Islamic Saudi Academy's 1999 valedictorian, was arrested in Saudi Arabia and was later convicted in Federal District Court in Alexandria of conspiracy to commit terrorism, including a plot to assassinate President Bush. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Probably the number one terrorist threat today is Aulaqi, who is an American citizen and who went to college on American taxpayers' money. He was with a mosque in northern Virginia, in Falls Church, which used to be in my old congressional district. So this issue of radicalization is very important.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and his staff and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and his staff.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I do not intend to oppose it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I just want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Virginia, for his involvement in all national security issues. We serve together on the Commerce-Justice Subcommittee in Appropriations and we work together on gangs. So I appreciate your focus on this area to protect the citizens of our country and our district.